(b) Considering the large number of admissions/deaths reported on account of suspected Dengue/DHF in Delhi hospitals, the Government of NCT of Delhi was told to treat the situation as epidemic.

(c) and (d) On the request of the Govt. of Delhi, Malathion Technical, Pyrethrum Extract and Fogging machines have been made available by the Directorate of National Malaria Eradication Programme to undertake vector control measures. Centrifuge machines to augment blood component separation facilities were also arranged for hospitals in Delhi including Indian Red Cross Society.

Air Services Agreement

*373. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air Services Agreement between India and Hong Kong has been signed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The air services operations between India and Hong Kong were earlier regulated by the India-U.K. Air Services Agreement. A separate Air Services Agreement has now been signed between India and Hng Kong on 10th October, 1996. As per this Agreement, one or more airline(s) may be designated by each side for operation of air services between India and Hong Kong. At present the Hong Kong side is entitled to operate 4 services and the Indian side 5 services on the agreed routes.

Poor Industrial activity forcing Companies to Abandon Equity Issue Plans

*374. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor industrial activity in the country has forced about 265 companies to abandon their equity issue plans;

(b) if so, whether Government have gone into the causes of this unprecedented setback to the share market; and

(c) if so, the details of the same and steps taken to rectify the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) According to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), it had issued during the period January to June, 1996 acknowledgement cards/observations to 932 companies for making issues of securities in the stock market. Out of these, 141 companies did not make the proposed issue.

(b) and (c) The situation in the industrial sector and in the stock market is constantly reviewed by the Government and other agencies such as the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The stock market has remained relatively subdued during the recent months on account of a variety of factors such as expectations of investors, financial results of some companies and uncertainties. The main concern of Government's policy towards the stock market is the ensure that it operates in a fair and transparent manner and in full compliance with various relevant laws, rules and regulations. Government and SEBI are committed to introducing reforms in the stock market on a continuous basis for enhancing investor confidence in the market.

Fresh Survey to Install VLPT at Basot

*375. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake fresh survey to install VLPT at